

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0002**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... WFF # A-003 - Taxiway Lighting and Switchgear  
Building {Current}  
Property Date: ..... 1944  
Address(s): ..... O'Reilly Street {}  
County/Independent City: Accomack  
City: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... CHINCOTEAGUE WEST  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**  
Property is Historic (50 years or older)

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	other
Windows	Windows - Sash, double-hung	Vinyl	Windows - Replacement Sash
Roof	Roof - Shed		Roof - Not visible

Site Description: ..... Located adjacent to the Air Traffic Control Tower.

**WUZIT Count:**

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Air Facility	Historic

**NR Resource Count:**

**Individual Resource Information**

WUZIT: ..... Air Facility

Est. Date of Construction: .... 1944 {Owner/written data}      Accessed? ..... Yes  
Primary Resource? ..... Yes      Number of Stories: ..... 1.0  
Architectural Style: ..... Other      Condition: ..... Good  
Interior Plan Type: ..... Open      Threats to Resource: ..... None Known

Description: The building has a poured concrete slab foundation and a shallow pitch (almost flat) shed roof; the roof materials are not visible. The building's walls are constructed of poured concrete. A slightly raised concrete pad with a steel manhole cover, which abuts the building on the west side, provides a landing platform just below and directly in front of the replacement metal steel door. A single one-over-one double hung vinyl replacement sash window is located on the north and south elevations, near the west end. Adjacent to the window on the south elevation is a large aluminum vent. A similar vent is located on the east elevation.

**Cemetery Information**

**Bridge Information**

**National Register Eligibility Information**

Historic Context(s): ..... Military/Defense

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Historic Time Period(s):..... Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)

**Significance Statement:** This small, one-story poured concrete building was built in 1944 and was known as the Field Lighting Vault, housing equipment associated with the taxiway lighting and switchgear, as it does currently. The building was identified as the "Transf[ormer] Building" on a 1944 facility map entitled "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. It was shown as "A-3" on the 1950 "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy. It was designated as the "Field Lighting Vault" on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. It has also served as a general storage building. It is located to the immediate south of Air Traffic Control Operations Building (001-0027-0001, WFF # A-1) at the junction of the three runways on Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) main base.

This simple, utilitarian building is representative of a secondary resource type associated with a Military/Defense property, built at the end of the World War I to World War II (1917-1945) period. The building was constructed as part of the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS). Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily-research based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. The building has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base.

The Taxiway Lighting and Switchgear Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

Although the building's original windows and door have been replaced, the Taxiway Lighting and Switchgear Building retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding environment of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

### ***Bibliographic Documentation***

**Department of Historic Resources  
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**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0002**

*Reference #: 1*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia."  
1950.

*Reference #: 2*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... Giffles and Valet

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary  
Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

*Reference #: 3*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test  
Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

**Ownership Information**

**Graphic Media Documentation**

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21525	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 5-10

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events**

*CRM Event # 1,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2003/08/08

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814

*CRM Event # 2,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2004/07/99

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878